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THE
HISTORY

OF THE
Mitre and Purse,

IN WHICH

The First and Second Parts of the secret History of the White Staff are fully considered, and the Hypocrisy and Villanies of the STAFF himself are laid open and Detected.

The Second Edition.

Quo teneam Vultus Mutantem Protea Nodo? Virg.

He left not Faction, but of that was left.
Dryden's Abs. and Achit.

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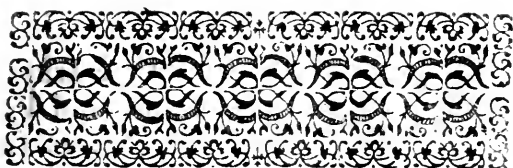
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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F T H E

Mitre and Purse.

THE Mercenary that has
T been hired to raise a Dust
in order to blind People's
Eyes from seeing clearly in-
to the *White Staffs* true Character, ha-
ving acquitted himself of that Filthy
Work, by a second endeavour, it may
not be amiss for a more generous and
Disinterested Hand to do what in him
lies towards setting Things in a true
Light, that Justice and Truth may
take Place of Defamation and False-
hood.

Not, that it does not prove Irksome to a Man whose Education and Principles lead him to other Views than an-Insight into Miscarriages under the Reign of a Queen, (whose Memory will always be dear and sacred to him) to look back on some Proceedings that may seem to reflect on that Princess in the choice of her Prime Minister : But the necessity of the Times requires it, and I find my self oblig'd with all the Respect due to a deceas'd and injur'd Sovereign to take this unwelcome Task in Hand.

And, who can go forward with, and compleat it ? Who can rescue the great Names I have taken upon me to defend, from the Vile Stabs of an insolent Detractor, and more Cruel Assassin than even *Guisguard* himself; without giving a Loose to his Passions, and Launching out into Expressions that may perhaps be too unguarded ? Who can, without doing Violence to his Temper hear the Sacred Character of a Bishop, who for Learning, Piety, Politeneis, and Sagacity may be rendred equal to the Brightest Luminaries of the *Protestant* Church, accus'd of Designs to introduce *Popery*, and of uttering

ring Blasphemies, that the most abandon'd Profligate might Tremble to give into? Yet these are the Arts that are now put in Practice and made use of to run down, depretiate, and Wound the whole Hierarchy, thro' that Venerable Assertor of the Rights of the Church of *England's*, Sides. From these neither is the most incorrupted Fidelity Safe, for the greatest Dispenser of Law and Equity free. Even the Tender Sex must come in for her Share of Reproaches, and Ingratitude does not stick to calumniate that Lady, by whose means the *Staff* himself was re-introduced at Court, after he had been thrown out of it for Endeavouring to supplant that Noble Person of the same Name that first brought him into it: So far is the Author of the secret History in the Right, for saying, *We are not without Examples where such encroaching Instruments, have supplanted those who went before them, nay their very Benefactors, and slipt into the Chair of Management at the Expence of those that raised them to that Power, and whose Creatures they were.*

Now what Grounds the Writer had for the abovemention'd Abuses will best

best appear by having Recourse to Matters of Fact; which cannot be more fairly done, than by reciting, as far as past Occurrences will Enable us, the steps they have severally taken from their First Entrance upon the Stage of Action till their going off from it. Which must of Course discover who have contributed most to the Preservation of our Laws and Immunities, the *Staff*, whose Shoulders are there said to be only fit to support the Weight of Government; or the *Mitre* and *Purse* whom we no ways lift above their known Dignity and Desert, by being brought in Competition with him.

To begin with the Two last, We shall find the Mitre, from a Private to a Publick Station, always contending *with Spiritual Wickedness in High Places*. We shall see him from his first Dawn to his Meridian Hight looking forward towards the Reward of a good Conscience void of Offence towards God and Man. *His works will praise him in the Gate*, and his Labours will bear Testimony, with what Anxiety and Care, he has ever consulted the Honour and Dignity of the Church, and been an Advocate

Advocate for his Brethren the Clergy. In the University, in the Convocation, in the Court, his whole Thoughts have been bent on the Propagation and Advancement of the Establish'd Religion, and in whatsoever Station it pleas'd God and his Superiors to place him, he was rather an Ornament to Preferment, than Preferment to him. He never stoop'd to mean Compliances to better his Fortunes, or made his Court to the Rulers of the Church by Sapping the Foundations of it ; witness his Immortal Writings whereby he has as eminently distinguish'd himself in its Defence, as his Opposers have by giving up the Rights of it : In a Word as he was ever present to himself, so he has always been abiding by those wholesome Doctrines he suck'd in from his Infancy. He knows not what it is to depart from the Vindication of what he thinks himself oblig'd by the most Sacred Tyes of Oaths and every Thing else that is binding, to defend ; and, if in few Cases he has made use of what some People falsely call *Asperity* ; if he has been for *Penalties* when he saw *Persuasions* could not bring over Dissenters to that Communion which
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the great Law of the Gospel, and that of the Land had Authorized to be National; if he was jealous of Endeavours on Foot (as Endeavours will be, while Our Church is the Glory of the Reformation) to lessen the Reverence and esteem that is due to the most Learned and Orthodox Clergy in the whole Universe; how could it be possible that on any of these Accounts he could be chargeable with being in the Interest of *Popery*, especially since he never advanced one Tenet in all his Writing or Sermons that look that way? *But he was for the SCHISM BILL*, say the Weak Disputants against him, *and the Schism Bill was brought in to introduce Popery, therefore the Bish— is in the Interest of Popery.* When that very Bill which the STAFF boasts of *Castrating*, was intended as the most Effectual means of Extinguishing the Hopes of the *Prétender*, and, by bringing over such as differ'd from the Church in some few Particulars, of Uniting us into one joint Interest against the *Papists*, between whom and us there is a much wider Disagreement, and who are under stricter Obligations not to recede from the Doctrine

ctrine they have imbib'd from Education and the Subtilty of their Priests. So much for the *Mitre* at this Time, till our Observations on the Proceeding of the STAFF call him upon the Stage again, who as an Inferior Clergyman acted after such an intrepid manner as plainly shew'd him not to seek the Office of a Bishop, tho' he that seeketh it seeketh a Good Office, but to be sought by it, since notwithstanding he might attain it by the Interest of the STAFF, it is next to a Demonstration he gain'd little or nothing by it, his Deanery and other Spiritual Preferments being of greater Value than the Bish—rick.

As for the PURSE, if he was ever led into any Mistakes, it was through his Implicite Attachment to the Interest of the STAFF: *They liv'd together as Brethren*, and were bred up thro' the Prejudices of their Parents under one and the same Instructor: This made them for a Considerable Time pursue the same Measures, and at the Beginning of the late Revolution, when they came to sit in Parliament where they were curious Observers of the Steps that were taken by the most
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knowing Members to have an Eye towards the Votes of Sir *Christopher Musgrave*, Sir *Edward Seymour* and other Worthy Patriots that would in no Case whatsoever give up the Rights of Church or State. But it was wholly owing to the Solicitations and Convictions of the PURSE, that the STAFF whose Father could whine and Cant most enormously, and had Stiffen'd his Son's Temper into a very serious Bent, could be any ways induced to vote with them. At last they both got themselves into several Black Lists by adhering to the Tory Party, and having seen their Names expos'd in several scandalous Libels written by the Whigs side, were accounted Staunch Churchmen, as most certainly the PURSE continued from the first of his renouncing the Errors of Education. It is here to be noted that both these Gentlemen were bred to the Law and Studied it at the Inns of Court: But the Staff finding *Coke* upon *Littleton* a dry Study, and his Fellow Student a much greater Proficient in the Art and Mistry of Haranguing at the Bar, thought it more adviseable, and perhaps more gainful, to turn Solicitor
of

of Causes in the S - n - te, where he had his Eyes upon what would set him into the Road of Preferment upon all Occasions. He had not long sitten in the House but he perceiv'd several Members through the Dexterity of the Courtiers, who could not otherwise bring them over to their Party, often made Profelytes to Preferment; and that their was some valuable Post of Profit generally laid in their Way, as a Bait to make them change their Party, that open'd loudest against Mismanagements in Publick Employes: Therefore he resolv'd to put in for the Prize and to make use of the same Measures for obtaining it. In the carrying on of this Project he had frequent Opportunities of displaying the Artifices which he was naturally Master of, and Cajoling of young Members at their first Appearance in the House into his Measures, till in Proceſs of Time he grew very Considerable, and, by the means of his *Pupils* who could tell Noses at a Division, if they could not make Speeches, was thought Worthy of being invited to side with the Court by Vertue of the Abovemention'd Allurements. This was suggested to the

King by one of the Secretaries of State in the Year 1697, who made his Majesty acquainted with his Talent and how useful it would be to his Affairs at that Juncture, which seemed to require some standing Forces after the Conclusion of the Peace at *Ryswick*, and which would certainly be embarras'd by his Opposition. But that Prince who perfectly knew the Man, and the Spirit of Dissimulation which he was agitated by, was too unreserv'd and open of Heart himself, to admit of the Proposal: And gave for Answer, *he could by no means think his Council safe in the Breast of one, who was of so versatile and Changeable a Temper, as to keep a secret no longer than it suited with his Capricious and volatile Temper, to which he added, That he trusted in God the Friends to the Publick Welfare would be more numerous in Parliament, than those that sought only their Private Advantage.* But that Wise Prince found himself mistaken, for when he had recommended the Keeping a sufficient Number of Troops on Foot, which seem'd the more necessary then on the Account of the King of *Spain's* Illness, which some time after ended in that Monarchs

arch's Death, none more violently oppos'd the Motion made for that Purpose, in Conjunction with the PURSE and other Friends, than the STAFF, who under the Pretext of Asserting the Liberties of the People, and Vindicating the just Rights of the Subject, which were thereby expos'd to the greatest Danger, grew more and more popular, and had such a prevalence at last, as to be more than a Match, for Mr. *Montague* (now E. of *Halifax*) who at that Time of Day with the Gentlemen who gave into his Sentiments, was accounted able Enough to carry any one Question he thought fit to propose to be put to the House.

Nay the STAFF and his Adherents, whom I shall not altogether leave without Excuse for denying a Request that might have been productive of ill Events from the greatness of its Latitude, were not content to succeed in their Endeavours for a Bill to disband the Army, whereby only 7000 Men were left upon the English Establishment, and 12000 upon the *Irish*, but when his Majesty had, not without Reluctance, in Consideration of the Nation's being too much expos'd, pass'd that Bill into an Act, and limited

ted his Desires to a few Body Guards, who had served him from his Infancy, and been with him, in every Action wherein he had ever been engaged, and by so being, had endear'd themselves to his Majesty; no sooner was the Kings Message brought into the House, tho' out of a more than Ordinary complacency of Temper, he had not only sign'd it, but written it every Word with his own Hand, but he clamour'd against the Purport of it, moved an Address to the King against those that Advised it, and obtain'd at last, not with some Difficulty, to have it entirely rejected. The Message ran thus.

William R.

‘ **H**IS Majesty is pleased to let the
 ‘ House know, that the ne-
 ‘ cessary Preparations are made for
 ‘ Transporting the Guards that came
 ‘ with Him into *England*: and that he
 ‘ intends to send them away imme-
 ‘ diately, unless out of Consideration
 ‘ to him the House be dispos'd to find
 ‘ a way for continuing them longer in
 ‘ his Service which his Majesty will
 ‘ take very kindly.

Thus was the Man that boast's him-
 self to be early in the Measures of the
 Revolution

Revolution, and by his Hireling Scribes most insolently tell's the World that *he was one of the First that gave into the Scheme of settling the Succession of the Crown upon the present Illustrious Family that enjoys it*, at the Head of those who oppos'd all the Measures of that Prince who left us that valuable Legacy ; and thus did he recommend himself to the Good Graces of the Present King and his Royal Progeny, who have too great a value for the Memory of a Prince that a little before his Death provided for Posterity by an Entail, which was wholly owing to that deceas'd King, and communicated by him to his Council, soon after the Death of the late Duke of *Glocester*.

This declared Aversion to comply with his Sovereign, push'd him upon Experiments, of doing what in him lay to get into the Favour of the immediate Successor, which he knew no other ways to bring about, than by continuing to assume the Character of one that would never deviate from the Interest of the Court Party, well knowing that her late Majesty, then Princess of *Denmark*, had some Grudging still resting upon her in Relation to some Misrepresentations,

Misrepresentations, concerning the Kings Conduct towards Her. Accordingly as the Gentlemen who were made to believe that Designs were in Agitation to alter the Settlement, and bring in another Bill of Exclusion, could not but resent such Extrajudicial Machinations, so they could pitch on no one to preside in the Chair of the Ensuing House of Commons, than Him who by his Sedulity and Vigilance to provide for himself, was thought all the while to be wholly busied in making Provision for the Legal Inheritance of the next Immediate Heir. Wherefore he was no sooner named for their Sp—r, but the Majority was declared on his side, and he presented to the King and accepted.

Now, had the STAFF a Game to play that required the greatest Dexterity and Address, since in this Station, if he went into the Court Measures he would wholly lose himself with those that took Part with the Country, or if he declared openly for the latter, he would inevitably be in no Condition of deceiving the First. He therefore for some Time stood Neuter, till finding the Tide of Complaints run high against

against the Court and Enquiries after Mismanagement at Helm Multiply themselves, he underhand Encourag'd the Pursuit of them, and tho' as a Privy Councillor (for he was called to that Station soon after his Election) he was tyed by his Oath not to divulge the Measures concerted at that Board, yet so far did his Lust after Increase of Power and Authority there, prevail over him, that he prefer'd the Breach of it to less alluring Considerations. Well knowing that Complaints in Parliament when push'd home and Vigorously back'd, occasion Alterations in the Ministry, and that those Alterations might make Room for him to succeed to some Exalted Preferment. But the House of Lords at that Time, made such a Noble stand against the Attempts of the Commons, that tho' the Latter carried their Resentments so high as to Impeach 4 of the Peers that were the greatest Favourites belonging to the King, yet those Gentlemen not having sufficient Proof to make good their Allegations, and not appearing against them at a Tribunal Erected for that Purpose, they were acquitted to

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the great Mortification of the *Staff* and his Party.

True it is that the PURSE went along with him in this Affair, and not only Voted for bringing those Lords to Justice, but was made use of to carry up the Message of Impeachment against one of them, but whether he did it out of Regard to the Friendship that was between him and the STAFF, who always glossed every Intention of his howsoever mischeivous or unjust, with the Varnish of a Patriot; or whether his own Judgment prompted him to think their Lordships Criminal, it is left to the PURSE himself to Elucidate and Explain?

To go on with the STAFF's Procedure, who could find Ways and Means to Impeach others for making disadvantageous and dishonourable Treaties (for this was grounded upon that of the Partition) tho' he thinks it hard to be called to an Account for making one himself: This *Trickster*, knew how to enjoy his very disappointments, and made use of his Defeat in this Particular, to obtain Victories in others. What had he to do but from this Act of the greatest Justice to the Innocent,
to

to whisper among those that were guilty of accusing them, that the Lords had done unjustly by them, and that they ought to vindicate and assert their Rights and Privileges, which had such an Influence upon Hot Heads and weak understandings, as to make both Houses Burst out into Remonstrances against each other.

The Ministry foresaw from what Quarter an Ensuing Tempest would arise if not timely prevented, and therefore acted under a Disguise with the *Staff*, as he had acted with them, and promis'd him great Things if he would put a stop by his Interest in the House of Commons to those growing Dissensions; and the King himself who had the worst Opinion of him that was possible, was prevail'd upon to tell Him that it would be very acceptable to him from his own Mouth. This fired his Ambition, and animated him to draw off his Creatures from their former Scent of Mismanagements, Abuses, Frauds, &c. to consider the State of the Succession, and to bear in Mind, what he would never otherwise have been admonish'd of, that upon the Demise of the Duke of *Glocester*, further

rities were necessary for the maintenance of the Settlement in the *Protestant* Line, and for the Attainder of the Pretended Prince of *Wales*, who upon the Death of the late King *James* the II. had stiled, and caused himself to be proclaimed King of *England &c.* Nor could it be suppos'd, howsoever irritated both Houses of Parliament were against each other in Defence of their Particular Rights and Priviledges, that when the Publick welfare was so nearly concern'd, they would not quit their Civil Feuds, and concur with each other in their Mutual Defence and Security. Accordingly the STAFF and his Adherents preis'd the Quick Passage of Two Bills through their House, for the Ends abovemention'd, in Hopes that the Court would make good their Promises, no doubt, and of being furnish'd with Mony to buy the M ——— st ——— r of the R ——— ll's Place, but the Accident of the Kings Death who liv'd only long enough to sign those and other Bills into Acts, prevented, if not Excus'd the one from making good the word that was given, and hindred the other from being at Liberty to charge them with Breach of Faith.

At

At the late Queen *Anne*'s Accession to the Throne, the STAFF who still held the Chair, was not at a loss what Countenance to put on ; but to ingratiate himself, with those that had the first Places in her Majesty's Favour, be-thought himself of New Projects and Contrivances. He had before, as has been observed, by his Emissaries given out that the Deceased King had another Succession in View than that of the Princess of *Denmark*, and nothing could be more proper at this Juncture than to revive and give a New Publication to this false and scandalous Report. Wherefore, as he always made his Court to Men of Letters and Liberal Education, whose narrow Circumstances might readily engage them in his Service, so he was not to seek for an Unfortunate Gentlemen at this Time of Day, who through the Speciousness of the Relation, that had the Resemblance of Truth, would dress it out in the most frightful Colours ; tho' how he was rewarded afterwards by the very Man that set him at Work will appear in its due Place.

Dr. *Drake* was the Person who was pitch'd upon for this Act of Policy, nor
could

could the STAFF have thought of a Gentleman more equal to such an Undertaking, and more willing to go through with it. For his Aversion to all the Measures taken by King *William* heightened by some Disappointments he had met with from the Ministry during that Prince's Reign, made him very easy to believe any Thing that might be of Prejudice to his Royal Character, and therefore he accepted the Offer and took upon him to write a Book for that End called, *the History of the last Parliament*, with a Pamphlet entitled, *the Source of our present Fears &c.* Herein it was represented after large Encomia upon the then Reigning Ministry, and the Members of both Houses that oppos'd the Court Measures in the Preceding Administration, ' That the King had nothing less in his ' Intentions, than to leave the Crown ' by Right of Inheritance to Queen ' *Anne*, and that it had been concerted ' between him and his Cabinet Council, to postpone her Majesty's Claim, ' to that of the next Successor. It was ' also suggested that Papers were found ' in the Kings Closet after his Decease ' that manifested and evinced this pre-
' tended

“ tended Scheme. ” Whereupon, tho’ the STAFFS Design was, by these bold and opprobrious Assertions urg’d and push’d forward to have the House of Commons, (amongst whom he had a Great Majority that Voted as he was pleased to dictate to them) upon an Enquiry after the Conduct of the preceding Government; the House of Lords cross’d in upon the Scent, and out of a just Regard to the Honour of His Deceas’d Majesty, Order’d a Committee to inspect the King’s Papers, who made their Report, that the Insinuation abovemention’d, *was false scandalous and villanous*, &c. Moreover to do Justice to the Name of that Dead Prince they conven’d Dr. Drake, who upon Examination before them made a Slight Defence and was order’d to be Prosecuted; tho’ upon Tryal to which he that set him at Work left him, according to wonted Practice, he was afterwards acquitted.

These brisk Resolutions in the House of Peers, wholly Still’d and hush’d the Cry that was just begun to be raised among the Commons, but the *Staff* in Requital for it, and out of Revenge for his Plots being rendred abortive, so

stirr'd up the Coals of Dissention between both Houses, as to make several Good Bills be lost by his Means ; that were sent down to the House of Commons for their Concurrence ; and the last Session of that Parliament, and (wherein the Bill against Occasional Conformity which he himself had advis'd and promoted the Bringing in of, was rendred unsuccessful by his Means) ended in nothing else but Litigations at ferences.

When now, the Queen out of a just Consideration of the PURSE's high Deserts, whom as yet the Tyes of Friendship that blinded him from seeing the Faults he was unwilling to espye, kept entirely in the Interests of the STAFF, made him Solicitor General ; in which Post he acted as became one that Consulted the Honour of the Sovereign, without depressing the Liberties of the Subject. After which she called a new Parliament, that again for want of a due Insight into what he aim'd at by the Acquisition of that Dignity, made Choice of the STAFF for their *Sp—r*. Thus he had it in his Hands once more to give Wings to his Ambition, and make other Efforts to attain that Confidence

dence at Court, which he had hitherto not thought fit to be too precipitate in worming himself into. He saw how deservedly the Duke of *Marlborough*, who was advanced to that Title for his Services the preceding Campaign in *Flanders*, and the Lord High Treasurer, the Earl of *Godolphin* held the First Posts of Honour and Trust there, and was so taken with the Sight of, and fawning Deference that was paid to, them in those High Stations, that he was resolved, maugre that Haughtiness of Soul that was too full of his own Deserts to have any tolerable Liking for those of others, to be in the Number of their Dependents, by which the Avenues of Preferment would be open to him, and give him an Opportunity of Supplanting his Benefactors. For tho' he had some Men's Persons in Admiration because of Advantage, He had a Real value for no Man Exclusive of his own Profit; and as Love and Envy can never take up their Residence in the same Soul, concerning the same Object, so the Office of the first Minister was too inviting not to make him entertain Invidious Conceptions of that Dignity, and being brought to Envy him that Possess'd it, and

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to be very Solicitous of obtaining it for himself.

He knew very well how to make his Addresses to them, and after what manner to get into their nearest Confidence, for he was appriz'd of means from the Occasional Conformity Bills, being again brought into the House of Commons, which Bill was partly design'd as a Touch Stone to try what Mettle the Courtiers were made of, or whether they were Sterling Churchmen as they gave themselves out to be. He was also appriz'd of their Knowledge of the Tendency of that Bill at that Juncture, when Peoples Minds were under Apprehensions of the Repealing the Toleration Act, and that tho' their Education would not suffer them openly to oppose it, yet the Interest of the Kingdom required that they should no ways disoblige the *Dissenters* and their Friends, who at that Time were the Money'd, and might prevent the Loans that were thought necessary to be had for taking the Field earlier than the Enemy. This he acquainted those Noble Lords with, as also with his being capable of clogging the Bill so by the Agency of his Friends that it should never pass. Nor did the STAFF fail of making good his Word, for he so negotiated with his Creatures in the House,

as

as to make them believe that the Peers who had rejected it before, would never give their Concurrence to it unless they Tack'd it to a Money Bill, which they could not refuse their Consent to. But this was the Sole Cause of its being lost once more, for when it was propos'd to be Tack'd, many that were Tooth and Nail for it before, gave their Votes against it, and tho' it was sent up to the Lords, it was done with such an indifference, that their Lordships had little else to do with it, than to fling it out at a Second Reading, because of their Attempt to force it upon them.

I should have told the Reader before, that as an Earnest of this future Service, he had the Promissary Grant of one of the Principal Secretaries of States Places, which was made good to him by the Removal of the Earl of *Nottingham*, and Enabled him to introduce some of his Bosome Friends likewise into the Court, as Sir *Thomas Mansel* (now Lord) who succeeded Sir *Edward Seymour* as Comptroller of the Household, and *Henry St. John* Esq; (now Lord *Bolingbroke*) who supplied the Place of Secretary of War, in the Room of Mr. *Blaithwait*. Sir *Simon Hartcourt* (now

Lord) was also advanced to the Post of Attorney General.

These Changes, and the Desertion of so many Members that were thought immoveably steady, in the Cause which was then called that of the Church and Country, soured many Peoples Tempers to a great Degree, in so much that the Pulpits began to sound with the Danger of the Church, and the Clergy to exert themselves upon all Occasions, against Hypocrisy and Lukewarmness in Matters of Religion. Which not being Criminal the STAFF could not well animadvert upon in a Judicial Way, without the Appearance of those Complaints in Print. He therefore so work'd it about by his Emisseries behind the Curtain, that a most Excellent Pamphlet was written by Dr. Drake and Mr. Pooley, called the *Memorial of the Church of England*, wherein Matters were carried at a high Rate, and the Queen accus'd of being Partial to such as favour'd the *Dissenters*, and of making Choice of a Ministry that were altogether in their Interest. But the Persons who wrote it, tho' put upon it by his means were too wise to let any one into the Knowledge of the Real Authors but themselves, so
that

that after he had in Vain beat the Bush for a Discovery, and taken up *William Shippen* Esq; for running him and his Messengers off the Scent, without any other Effect than being laugh'd at, he contented himself with causing Dr. *Drake* to be apprehended, and bound over to be Prosecuted upon bare Suspicion, (tho' the Warrant against him run upon Oath,) and Wheedling another Person who was in Custody for a Trifling Matter, into a Confession of Writing the Case of the said *Memorial* fairly Stated &c. and contrary to the most solemn Assurances, that such a Confession should be of no Prejudice to him, with bringing him to a Tryal at the Queen's Bench Bar, the Consequences of which to his and the poor undone Gentleman's Disgrace, will appear upon Record.

As for Dr. *Drake*, what Resentments are due to the Staff from the learned World on his Account, the Death of so Great and Valuable a Man, to whom the Republick of Letters owed so much, and were in Expectation of Owing more, will sufficiently make appear, since the Violence of the Prosecution which it was not doubted would have ended in an ignominious Punishment, hurried his
Spirits

Spirits into a High Fever that Ended with the Loss of his Life.

All this while ; the PURSE who was under an Obligation of carrying on what Informations were sent him from the Crown by Vertue of his Office, acted no otherwise than in a Manner that was agreeable to his Duty. He indeed pleaded as his Breviate directed him, as all of that Profession will to the best of their Skill, be the Merits of the Cause of never so good or bad a Complexion ; but yet he so behaved, as to deal above Board, and to give Proofs of his Honesty to the Accused, while he endeavoured to make good the Accusation. So great a Difference was there between the Sincerity of the One, and the Collusive Practices of the Other, that tho' the *Purse* by Dint of Eloquence and Strength of Argument made the Guiltless appear faulty, and caus'd them to be found so, yet the *Staff* was altogether Blame worthy who led him into the Belief of their Guilt when he knew them to be innocent.

So much for Prosecutions under the *Staffs* Administration, till we come to see him in the Exercise of another Office, and like a Cardinals Horse with his
Fiocco

Piocco upon him. Let us now View him in his Endeavours to weaken those Hands that gave him Strength, and to give them a Cast out of their High Posts who introduced him into his. The Reader has already seen by what means he insinuated himself into Court, and is to be told now upon what Grounds he was removed from it.

The STAFF thinking himself after this *Coup d' eclat* so Riveted in the good Affection of the Queen his Mistress, that nothing could shake him, as indeed he was very much in her good Opinion, for there are few or no Princes but are Subject to the Laws of Humanity, and liable to think better of some Sycophants than they deserve, gave way to his Ambition, which suggested to him that he was capable of Filling the Place of Premier Minister. He would willingly if he could have done it with safety, have acquiesc'd in the Generals keeping his Post Exclusive of the *Treasurer*, but they were so engaged to stand and fall by One another, thro' the Means of Alliances and other Considerations, that he found himself under a necessity of making his Attack on both at one and the same Time. But how to carry on his Approaches so as no Discovery should be made before the Mines were ready to take Fire, was the Consideration

deration which chiefly employ'd him. He, had before this, by Vertue of his Interest, brought in a She Relation of his, (who but for that Part of his Family's Blood that flow'd in her Veins was every Way worthy of that Service) as a Dresser to her Majesty, which was done on Purpose to have an Eye upon the D——s of M——ough, who from her Attendance on that Princess from her Cradle, was ever held in the Highest Esteem by her. For he was not ignorant of the seeming Impossibility to displace the Husband, while the Wife continued in her best Graces, and that a Lady who was always with the Queen in her closest Retirements, would of Course, have a greater Ascendant over her, than any Favourite whatsoever of another Sex. This Kinswoman therefore, who bating what has been said before, was possess'd of most Excellent Talents, and form'd by her Method of Living to excite Benevolence towards her in the best of Sovereigns, was so Instructed, or rather abused by his Subtle, and Plausible Insinuations, that no Opportunitys were let slip, of setting forth the STAFFS Loyalty, and Concern for his Mistress's Honour and Interest, at the same Time as the Power of the Two Great Men just
 mention'd

mention'd was represented as possible to be mischievous in its Consequences, I dare say, the good Gentlewoman believ'd him, when in a Pathetick manner he laid before her, what Hazards, the Queen was encompass'd with under their Administration, especially when he touch'd upon the *Danger of the Church*, which he but a Year or Two before had been very vigorous in making appear to be an Idle Story, by his Prosecutions. Nor had the Success fallen short of the Design, since her Majesty grew daily more and more wean'd from the good Opinion she had hitherto entertain'd of the General's and Treasurer's Conduct, For the Cause of Complaint against them, for wholly engrossing their Prince's Favour was so craftily enforced and maintain'd, that her Majesty had form'd a Resolution to get quit of her pretended Governors, which had been put in Execution a Day or Two after, had not an unforeseen Accident fall'n out, that Turn'd the Tables upon him that was assur'd of his Game, and was already fingering the Publick Cash in Imagination.

An unlucky Discovery spoil'd all, for while some Body, (and no Body else

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could

could do it,) was Transmitting the best Concerted Measures for finishing the War at one stroke that ever were fix'd upon by the Siege of *Toulon*, and the Reduction of that Important Fortress and Sea Port, because it was the Duke of *M——*'s Project ; the STAFF, made the other Scheme of no use to himself, and found himself tumbled down Headlong from all his Chimerical Structure of Immense Riches and Favour, and Excluded from that Royal Presence, which he had made it his Endeavour wholly to deprive others of. Thus was the STAFF again reduced to a Private Station, and, Thanks to a certain Persons close Mouth, who chose rather to die than to open it, that he was left at Liberty to enjoy even the Comforts of that. For tho' the Law could not take hold of him, the Peoples suspicions did, and justly too, since it is not reasonable to Judge, that one retain'd in a Masters Service could have a secret of that Nature entrusted with him, contrary to his Masters Knowledge.

This sudden Change of Affairs brings us again to a View of what the *Purse* did upon occasion of it, and here we are to be made acquainted with the great Prevalence which the Tyes of Friendship had
over

over the Engagements of Profit. The STAFF is no sooner removed, but the PURSE Sympathizes in his Disgrace, and thinks himself unjustly treated in the Person of him that is his other Self. He can be guilty of no Sinister Intentions in his own Soul, and therefore cannot believe any Machinations of an Evil Tendency can be formed in his. Wherefore tho' Courted by thole whom necessity compell'd to be his, Pretended Friends, Enemies, to keep Possession of his Post, he, as did also the Lord JOHN BULL of his, he made a Voluntary Resignation of, and Sacrificed more than 4000 Pounds *per Ann.* to shew that nothing should stand in Competition with his Regard to the Vindication of a Man whom in his Wounded Reputation, he thought his own to be a Sufferer.

Yet notwithstanding this unexpected Disaster, the STAFF had another Bisk in his Sleeve to Play the set out with yet, and his Kinswoman at Court who thought him the most abused Gentleman in the World, left no Stone unturn'd to reinstate him in her Majesty's Favour, which none but she was capable of doing, and for which he has required her by blasting her good Name in Scanda-

lous Libels since. Accordingly, after she had been too hard for all the Lords that press'd the Queen for her Removal from Court, and had render'd their Application to her Majesty for that End, as derogatory to her Royal Prerogative, and Invasive of the Rights that even Mistresses of Private Families have of chusing their own Servants ; after she had artfully, and with great Strength of Reason, laid before her Sovereign the great Deference that was owing to her high Title and Dignity : In a Word after she had represented his Accusers, who thought it their due to hold their Places for their Lives, independent of Her that gave them, she obtain'd of the Queen, who could deny her nothing, his Admission to Court in private, that he might speak in his own Justification.

From hence it was, that the Queen who had before complain'd in one of her Speeches, against the Malice of some People that alledg'd the Church to be in Danger under her Administration, was to believe it to be so : From hence that he found frequent Opportunities of Poisoning her Majesty's Ears with Fears and Jealousies, when there was no other

ther Foundation, but his immoderate Thirst of bearing Rule over Her, and the whole Nation? From hence, that all the Victories and Conquests of her Fleets and Armies, were of no other use to them that Conducted 'em, and led 'em forth to Hers and their immortal Glory, than to be brought as so many Arguments of their being laid aside, as shall be fully proved in the sequel of this History.

During these Transactions another Parliament having been called, which was chiefly composed of such Members as were ready to go into the Court Measures; the PURSE against whom an Obscure Person was put up for a Candidate, at a Borough which for many Elections had made Choice of him for its Representative was returned. But as the Contrary Party knew what Weight and Influence such a finish'd Patriot must necessarily have in the House, it was concerted amongst his Enemies, that his Opponent who had been fairly out-number'd by several Votes, should Petition against his Election as undue. In Pursuance of which a Hearing came on at the Bar of the House, where, tho' it appear'd, that no Person

Person was more regularly chosen than the sitting Member, the Majority ran High against him, and the Petitioner was declared in his Place. How the PURSE behav'd, and shew'd himself of an even an Gallant Deportment during the whole Debate which lasted from 12 at Noon till Two the next Morning, will appear by the most Excellent Speech which he made before he withdrew when the House came to a Division, and which it would be a very great Act of Injustice, not to insert Word for Word, as he gave it utterance.

‘ Whatever the Determination of this
 ‘ House may be, *said He*, this I am sure
 ‘ of, and it must be admitted, that I
 ‘ am duly elected for the Borough of *A-*
 ‘ *bingdon*, as ever any Man was.

‘ Had it been the Pleasure of this
 ‘ House to have Construed the Char-
 ‘ ter, under which this Election is
 ‘ made, according to the natural and
 ‘ plain Words of it, as the Inhabitants
 ‘ have always understood it. In such a
 ‘ Sense all former Parliaments have fre-
 ‘ quently expounded it. Had you de-
 ‘ clared the Right of Election to be in
 ‘ those Persons, who have without any

‘ Interruptions,

‘ Interruption, exercised it for 150
 ‘ Years, you could not have heard it in-
 ‘ sisted, that I had not the Majority.
 ‘ Even as you have determin’d the
 ‘ Right, my Majority is still unquestion-
 ‘ able: No Gentleman with Reason,
 ‘ can disprove my Assertion, whatever
 ‘ Reason he may have to refuse me
 ‘ his Vote. You have been truly infor-
 ‘ med, the Petitioner on closing the Poll,
 ‘ declared *he did not come thither with any*
 ‘ *Prospect or Hopes of Success.*

‘ So stupid then was I, as not to com-
 ‘ prehend the meaning of those Words;
 ‘ I would do Him Justice, I really be-
 ‘ lieve he himself was not, at that
 ‘ Time, let into the secret.

‘ Any Opposition may give a Handle
 ‘ to a Petition, no matter for the Justice
 ‘ of it, Power will maintain it.

‘ Whoever sent him on such an Er-
 ‘ rand; What mean and contemptible
 ‘ Notions must he entertain of the then
 ‘ Ensuing Parliament? He must sup-
 ‘ pose them capable of the basest Acti-
 ‘ ons, of being Aw’d and Influenc’d by
 ‘ Menaces or Promises, and to prosti-
 ‘ tute their Consciences at the Word of
 ‘ Command.

‘ Had

‘ Had there been such a Parliament
 ‘ Elected, and I declared not duely E-
 ‘ lected, I should then have left my Place
 ‘ with a Compassion for the Unfortunate
 ‘ Friends that stay’d behind me. Who-
 ‘ ever could have framed such a Project
 ‘ to himself, must undoubtedly have
 ‘ wish’d for, perhaps have wanted such
 ‘ a Parliament.

‘ He must have been a Person, the
 ‘ most abandon’d Wretch in the World;
 ‘ who had long quitted all Notions of
 ‘ Right and Wrong, all Sense of Truth
 ‘ and Justice, of Honour and Consci-
 ‘ ence.

‘ Whatever his dark Purposes were, it
 ‘ is our Happiness and the Nations,
 ‘ that they were entirely disappointed in
 ‘ the Choice of this Parliament.

‘ I cannot directly Point him out,
 ‘ but whoever he was, I have so much
 ‘ Charity, as sincerely to wish he may
 ‘ feel and be truly sensible of the Hon-
 ‘ our and Impartial Justice of a * *British*
 ‘ Parliament.

‘ The

* Here he Summ’d up the Poll on both sides, and demon-
 strated that the Council for the Petition, had left him the
 Majority of Two Votes, and had added several unquestiona-
 ble Votes to his own Poll.

‘ The Petition charges me Personal-
 ‘ ly with many indirect Practices :
 ‘ But no Attempt has been made to
 ‘ prove any Thing of that Kind.

‘ As for the indirect Practices char-
 ‘ ged on my Agents, I had no Agents ;
 ‘ I knew of no Opposition till the Morn-
 ‘ ing of the Election, nor had the least
 ‘ Apprehension of any. I thought no
 ‘ Agent necessary to promote my In-
 ‘ terest, nor had I employ’d any Per-
 ‘ son whatsoever to solicit for me ;
 ‘ But what Solicitations, what Mena-
 ‘ ces and Promises have been used a-
 ‘ gainst me, and by whom, are but too
 ‘ well known to too many.

Thus was this most Excellent Man,
 whom it would have been an Honour
 to the House of Commons to have con-
 tinued as a Member, thrown out of it ;
 and thus was a meer Abject of a Brew-
 er, that knew nothing of the Consti-
 tution of the Kingdom made one of
 the Keepers of the Liberties of the Peo-
 ple, when at the same Time he knew
 not how to keep his own Cash Book :
 While a Gentleman of as Antient a
 Family as any in *Britain* was excluded
 from his Just Rights of Vindicating

our Laws and Immunities, which none knew better how to defend, to make Room for a Fellow that was of much such another Capacity as one of his own Dray Horses.

But the MITRE had a far greater Deference and Respect pay'd to his Character, for he did not only sit in Convocation as a Reverend Member thereof but had the Honour afterwards to be distinguish'd by being chosen their Prolocutor ; Which Office he Executed with that Intrepidity and Vigilance, Constancy, and Fidelity, as to shew himself not only equal to, but far Superior to most of his Predecessors: For he stedfastly adhered to the Preservation of the Rights of the Interior Clergy, and not falling short in his Duty to the Fathers of the Church, whom he was for paying a strict Obedience to, in all Lawful matters, continued a shining Advocate while he sat in the Chair for the Sons of it. And, if thro' the Lukewarmness and Pretended Moderation of some of his Brethren in the Lower House, who expected Preferment from the Upper, what her Majesty recommended to their Consideration met with great Difficulties and Obstructions,

ons, it cannot be imputed to him, that did all he could to bring them to a Compliance with her Majesty's most gracious Messages, but must be laid at some Persons Doors, who under the Veil of Moderation prosecuted Heats and Animosities in their Debates, and render'd all their Consultations for the security of the Establish'd Religion fruitless and of no Effect.

In the mean Time, tho' little or nothing was done in Convocation, that had any Tendency to the Advancement of the Church's Interest, the Parliament, without any Intention to enter upon Religious Affairs, did it to their Hands for them.

For as it has been said before, the STAFF, who had no other Stratagem to recover his Credit, than a pretended Zeal and Concern for the Honour of the Establish'd Priesthood, foresaw that no Artifices were capable of doing him Service, but such as had a Retrospect that way ; so he knew that the Ministry were no otherways to be outed from the Power they were possess'd of, than by making the Nation believe they were for bringing in new Innovations in matters of Religion, as

well as Policy. Having felt the Pulse of the Queen, which he found by his Confidant and Kinswoman, to beat high and be very Sanguine and Hearty, for the Rights of the Clergy and Her own Prerogative, he look'd out for a Person who was fearless enough to deliver them from the Pulpit upon solemn Occasions, which he by his Emisfaries had dealt about from the Press and verbal Discourses.

Twill be needless to point out who this Person was, or to look into the Merits of the Cause he took upon him to defend. Both the Man and the sudden Turn of Affairs which happen'd thereupon, are so well known as to be in every ones Mouth; We shall therefore without looking into the Particulars of the most Impolitick Tryal that ensued thereupon, only take Notice, that the STAFF who set the Doctor upon Preaching, in Defiance of the Gentlemen then at Helm, found Means to have him called in Question for it, and that by Way of *Impeachment*; When, had he been prosecuted in a Common Way, and deliver'd over to the Attorney General, without any Pompous Formality, as was afterwards made
Use

Use of, the Ministry could not have fail'd of standing their Ground, and the suppos'd Criminal of meeting with a proper Censure from the Ordinary Form of Justice.

But a Parade was to be made, or the Populace could never be work'd up to a Heat of Temper capable of inflaming them to a Dislike of their Superiors; Therefore Mr. *Dolben* who was a needy Man, and made his Court to Preferment at any Rate, was look'd upon of a nature that would not fail of pushing home the Complaint. To be as Brief as possible, those in the Administration took this Act of Indiscretion as done out of Zeal for their Service, and accordingly gave into the Proposal by themselves and their Friends of carrying Things so high as they went in the Doctors Tryal; Whereat the PURSE who assisted as his Chief Advocate, so distinguish'd himself by his Strength of Reason and Force of Expression, that tho' the Ministry obtain'd their Ends in the Condemnation of the Doctrines, the Preacher came off with an Easy Sentence, and the Queen, who conceiv'd her Prerogative to be struck at by that Tryal, and was
present

present at it, during its Continuance by the Contrivance of her the Favourite, was prevail'd upon to give Ear to the *Staff's*, Representations; Which had ne'r taken Effect, had not he prevail'd with the Friends to the Doctor, among whom Mr. *Br——ley*, was the most Hearty and made the Motion, that the Commons would be present at the Tryal as a House, which they could not be, without Erecting Scaffolds in *Westminster Hall*, by which that was made a National Concern, that would otherwise have been a Private.

Nor, was the MITRE as well as the PURSE, without his share in the management of the Defence that was then made on the Part of the Accused, who, tho' of Firmness enough to abide the Tryal, was not Master of Arguments sufficient to go through with his Defence in it, without that Prelate's and another of the same Orders Assistance; Which as it was freely given, in the Times of the greatest Emergency, will, it is not doubted be as freely acknowledged on the Part of the Doctor, who is so ingenious as not to disown the Helps he receiv'd from the Advocates of Religion, and unlimited Loyalty on that solemn

solemn Occasion. The sudden Changes that were the Result of this struggle between the Contenders for *Indefeasible Right*, and *unlimited Obedience*, and the Champions for *Resistance* of the Supreme Power, in some necessary Cases are so fresh in every ones Memory, that it will be an Act of Superogation to recite them. Be it sufficient that the STAFF was thereby elevated and raised up to the very Pinnacle of the most Towing Ambition, and those who continued in the strictest Tyes of Friendship with him, and were yet blind to all his selfish Views and Designs, as near as could be to the Throne without intercepting the Beams of Majesty whose Rays were all to Centre upon him.

The PURSE had the Broad Seal given him, the Lord *John Bull* was put into the Possession of the Office of S—ry of State, the *Mitre* was prefer'd to the Deanery of *Ch—C—* in *O—d*; but the Dr. who had richly deserv'd a better Notice, by many a wearisome Gallop and Trot with his White Prauncer, and had by his Appearing in the several Countries he pass'd through in his way to *Wales*, and had brought
over

over vast Numbers to vote in the Elections for new Members to serve in Parliament, was put off with a promise of succeeding to St. *Andrew's*, when vacated by the then Incumbent, who had been made a Bishop, with Leave to hold it, in Commendam for 3 Years.

The Parliament was scarce assembled, and found to be such as would Answer the Desires of the STAFF upon all Emergencies, but he that held his Place jointly with 4 other Persons in Commission at first, had the Ensigns of that Office wholly and solely consigned over to him. Which being put in Possession of, Happy was that Noble Family, that could form Alliances with his. In his Hands were all the Issues of Power, and Streams of Wealth; To him was every one under an indispensable necessity of making application that petition'd the Throne, or of obtaining any Favour at Court; and on him were the Eyes of all such fix'd and placed, that had any Hopes of meeting with the Rewards of past Services, or of being in a Condition of doing any for the Time to Come.

Not

Not, that he did not arrive at this Height of Preferment by other Mens Merit, since the Lord JOHN BULL's Discovery of *Guisc* — d's Negotiations with *France* by way of *Portugal*, for which the Assassin confess'd, *That since he could not reach his Heart, he attempted that of one he had reason to think dearest to him*, hurried him, as it were, to it: For it was never intended, what hasty Steps soever he made towards the chief Minister's Place, that he should have been so precipitately advanced to the Dignity of an E — le and L — d H — gh T — r, and not the Congratulations made him, in pursuance of the Order of the H — of C — m — ns, by their *Speaker*, upon his Recovery from a Wound, (which, if more fatal to him, had been less to the Nation,) almost push'd her late Majesty upon making that unlucky Experiment.

Great Interest at Court is generally productive of great Alliances, which the *STAFF* took care not to neglect for the Preservation of himself (in Case that the Tables should be turn'd once more against him) and the Aggrandizement of his Family. He was too well appriz'd of the Revolutions

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and

and Changes which in Process of Time frequently fall out in all Administrations; and therefore to guard himself against all future Accidents, married his eldest Daughter to the presumptive Heir of one of the most ancient and most considerable Earl's in *Scotland*, and his youngest to a Lord, who by Right of Inheritance, had one of the best Estates, and upon the Decease of his Father, will be one of the first Peers in *England*: By which two Acts of Dexterity and Cunning, he branched out his, and had his Geneology Blood not only mix'd with the Families of the *H—s* and *O—s*, but through their means joyning Streams with that of *Bruce* and *Plantaginet*. For the last of which Illustrious Intermarriages he gratify'd the Guardian of the young *L—d* with a Translation to a more valuable Bishoprick, tho' he has not, as it is said, to this Day, made good the Conditions of the Matrimonial Contract; but continues to with-hold 2000*l*. of the Lady's Fortune on Account of her Decease.

What Grounds there are for such a Report, must be left to their Judgment who are more conversant with
his

his Method of making Payments; tho' this is most certain, that his profuse way of gaining over Dependents, disabled him, before he was possess'd of the *STAFF*, from making every Payment regular. But the *STAFF* was in his Hands now, as the Saying is, and he lost no Time in making use of it; For, as by affiancing his Daughters, he obtain'd incredible Advantages, so by marrying his Son, some time after to the greatest Heiress in the Kingdom, He almost strengthen'd himself to such a Degree, as to make it impossible to shake him.

How this last Match was made up, Prudence and Caution forbids us to relate; but if some People speak true, such Measures were taken to bring it about, as were not altogether of a Piece with Honour and Justice. Be that as it will, none knew better how to varnish it over, and give it a fair Appearance, than he that first set it on Foot; and however, he fell short of making his Promise good concerning a certain Tryal in the H—se of P—rs for a vast Estate between two Cousen Germans, he made good the Opinion which those that knew him intimately well, ever had of him. But to look back-

ward a little towards the Persons, whose Vindication is chiefly aim'd at in this little History, (*viz*) the *Mitre* and the *Purse*: The first, whose Dignities in the Church, tho' held by all to be deserving of much greater, were considerable enough to make him equal to many that were the Fathers of it, contented himself with the Station wherein he was placed, and would not have exchange'd it for the Episcopal Chair, as he did sometime after, at the Importunities of such as were for providing fit Persons to be Successors to the Apostles, had it not been for the Concern he had for the Propagation of the establish'd Faith, and the Measures he suspected to be in Agitation amongst some of the same Order in Opposition to the Purity of its Doctrines.

His Care for the well Government of the Church, made him only yield to their Persuasions of being one of the Heads of it, under her most Gracious Sovereign, who had too great a Knowledge of his Piety and Learning, from a long Attendance on her as one of her Chaplains, not to be earnest with him for his Acceptance of her Offer. And the *PURSE*'s Abilities, which he had exerted

exerted in every Station he had yet been placed in, had rendred his extraordinary Merits so conspicuous, in the Eyes of the Sovereign, that, without Application to her from any Recommender, without any previous Suit in his Favour from the *STAFF*, or elsewhere, she call'd him to be an Ornament to the highest Post, that had left a distinguishing Lustre upon Employments of a lower Nature. She had seen him, Maugre all the prevailing Interest of Power and Authority, openly, and in the Face of numerous Opposers, contending for the Prerogatives of the Sovereign, and the Liberties of the Subject. She had heard him sedate and untterrify'd by the greatest and most august Appearance in all Christendom, assert, and stand by the Laws of Christianity: In a Word, her Majesty, from the Testimony of her Eyes and Ears, that had been Witnesses of his Zeal and Alacrity in carrying on, and conducting a Cause, wherein he was sure to meet with so many Difficulties and Reproaches, found her self in Justice to his Service, to her Self, and Country, indispensibly obliged to make him Preside in her Supream Court of Judicature. Where, how he demean'd himself

self from his first Acceptance of the Seals to his late Surrender of them ; His irreproachable Conduct may defy the Tongues of the most outrageous Enemies to declare ; This worthy Patriot having a just Title to put the same Question, as the Prophet *Samuel* did, at his ceasing to be a Judge over *Israel*, without any Imputation of Presumption, (*viz.*) *Behold here I am, witness against me before the Lord, and before his Anointed. Whose Ox have I taken? Or whose Ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose Hand have I received any Bribe to blind mine Eyes therewith, and I will restore it him?*

But the *Purse's* Incorruptness of proceeding in the Discharge of his Office, will more properly be taken notice of in another Place. To return therefore to the Conduct of the *STAFF*. Having form'd Alliances for the Support of his own Family, his chief Concern was to break and disjoint those of others. But first, before he would Article under Hand with the Enemy for a separate Peace, in Breach of the Publick Faith, and in Violation of his Royal Mistress's Honour, he bethought himself of Ways and

and Means to render his Predecessor odious to the People. Accordingly, his Creatures were set at work to declaim in general Terms against the Frauds and Abuses committed in the several Offices under him, as the Customs, Excise, Victualling, &c. by which means he would have it in his Power, not only to reflect upon the late Treasurer in the Choice of such Commissioners, and their Officers; but to make Vacancies with the better Graces, and to fill them up with his own Dependents.

The Plot took Effect in the best manner he could have desir'd it; and a Committee having discover'd several Mismanagements and Misapplications of Publick Money, pav'd the Way for a New Commission of *taking and stating the Publick Accounts*, &c. which had been laid aside for some Years, because thought of great Expence to the Nation to a very little Purpose. But the People were to be cajol'd and drawn into high Conceptions of the New STAFF's Integrity, by their casting an Odium upon the Old; and the greatest Part of 35 Millions was to be voted unaccounted for, that the Querimonious Commissioners of Accounts might have where-
with

with to still their Complaints against the present Management.

Representations and Reports were drawn up very thick in pursuance of this Scheme; and not only the late Treasurer was said to have plunder'd the Nation, but the General was call'd in Question, and charg'd with deducting two and a half *per Cent.* from the Foreign Troops in the *British* Service, and several other mean and ungenerous Practices. But their not bringing either to Justice, tho' the House had order'd the *last* to have an Information brought against him, the Court of *Exchequer* against the Attorney General, gave People, (howsoever willing to believe them Criminal,) reason to suspect they had but slender Proof to make good his Allegations.

In the mean time, the Queen having declar'd from the Throne, that the Negotiations of Peace were begun between her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries, and those from the States General on the one Part, and Persons of the same Character from *France* and *Spain*, on the other, the Emperor continuing to persist in his Refusal to enter into no Treaty without a previous Declaration of the Surrender
of

of the *Spanish* Dominions in *Europe* and the *West Indies* to the House of *Austria*: The *STAFF*'s next Project was, by his Emissaries, to insinuate the great Advantages of the ensuing Determination of the War, and the Profits, by way of Commerce, that would arise to the *British* Nation by it, which, with Persons ready prepared to give Ear to it, upon many valuable Considerations, it was not difficult to accomplish.

For it was very natural for Gentlemen that had been long harass'd in their Estates by a *Consuming Land War*, to entertain the Prospect of an approaching Peace with Tokens of the greatest Contentment and Satisfaction; especially when they had it from the Queen's own Mouth, that it should be very advantageous to our Friends and Allies; which, after many ample Declarations from the Throne, that their Interests should be inseparable from her own, it could not enter into their Thoughts that her Majesty could be induced to recede from. But the Artifices of the Courtiers are such as to impose upon the Sovereign, and this good, this credulous Princess, was work'd up by *STAFF*, to Sentiments quite con-

trary to what she had before made Profession of, and was persuaded while the Treaty was in Agitation, to abandon her Allies, and give Orders to her New General, the Duke of *Ormond*, to withdraw the Forces under his Command from the Confederate Troops; which ended in a Peace exclusive of the Emperor and Empire, for the Restitution of whose Legal Rights, the War was at first begun.

The *Dutch* indeed, after they had held firm to their Resolutions of abiding by their Engagements to the Common Cause; after they had receiv'd the News of several Thousands of their Natural born Subjects sacrificed by that fatal separation, at the Battle of *Denain*, and been huff'd into cooler Thoughts by the E. of *S——d*, whose Memorials were the Pipes thro' which the *STAFF* convey'd his bitter Decoctions, (which their Losses oblig'd them to swallow,) entred into the same Agreement with *France*; but were more cautious of coming to Terms with *Spain*, from the manifest Advantages they had stipulated for themselves with *Great-Britain*, whose Merchants, without any Regard to the very Letter of the Treaty, they had

had oppress'd with fresh and unwarrantable Imposts.

How the *PURSE* Exerted himself during the foremention'd Negotiations, which were kept secret from him, in every other Respect, than in being Communicated to the Cabinet and the Privy Council, will most fully be display'd in the Execution of his Office as C——r, where he was employ'd after a much better manner than the *STAFF*, whom Education, had yet made him have a strict Regard for, at the same Time as he knew him turning Defter from the Principles which he pretended to be attach'd to from his first flinging off the Principles imbibed by it. This Noble Lord, howsoever traduced, by a Wretch, whom the greatest Infamy cannot keep from being an Associate to the greatest of *Tricksters* and *Betrayers*, was of too discerning a Genius not to see, that the Secrecy the *STAFF* took in his *Messages* and little *Envoyships*, which were always imparted to, and bestow'd on his Favourites and Dependents, such as A——r M——re Esq; Mr. *Thomas H——r——y*, &c. without any Previous Communication of the Purport of

them to him, or the Lord *John Bull*,
 who were the chief Persons at the
 Helm, next to him that was supreme,
 and therefore in Reasoning the Case
 with him, took the Opportunity of tel-
 ling him, " That their mutual Confi-
 " dence in one another ought to be the
 " Result of embarking together in the
 " same Measures, and of being actu-
 " ated by the same Publick Spirit for
 " the Advancement of the Publick
 " Good." *To which they added,* " That
 " to remove all Grounds of Jealousies
 " between them which had been un-
 " happily occasion'd by his daring Ge-
 " nius, and the masterly Enterprizes
 " he was always ready to go upon of
 " his own Head, it would be very
 " friendly in him to let them come in
 " for their Turn of conversing with
 " State Affairs, since otherwise, they
 " might be, in the Stations of States-
 " men, reputed strangers to Politicks."
 Such an unexpected Request, put the
STAFF to a stand; however, since
 his Familiarity with Lord *John Bull*,
 and the many Bottles they had drank
 together without any Symptoms of Dis-
 content, it was readily agreed, that he
 should have proper Credentials to dis-
 course

course with the Ministry, and unravel the Design of the *French* King. But Lord! how did this Ingenious and Quickfighted Nobleman stand amazed, and overcharg'd with Speculations, when he got into the Depth of his Investigations. Here was such a Scheme made known, soon after its first Formation in the Embrio, of the Intellect, and such an Advantage purposely receded from, There was a Contract to elude this Article of Commerce, Peace, and Here was such a Loophole made by consent to creep through, notwithstanding the most Sacred, the most Obliging, and Solemn Oaths bound our Enemy to the Contrary. Whom could the Disturber of the Publick Peace obtain these Concessions from, than him, that under Pretence of Promoting it, gave into Measures repugnant to its lasting Establishment? Or whom did he make Discovery of, for a *SAPPER* of the Foundations of his own National Constitution, and a Betrayer of the Honour, Wealth, and Security of his Country, than him, that had taken upon him, exclusive of much better and more disinterested Understandings, to be their Support and Defence?

Hence

Hence it was that the Lord *JOHN BULL* and the *PURSE*, who had some Time before began to stagger in their Opinion of the *STAFF*, abated of their Familiarity, and Acted with something of a Reserve towards that great Officer: For notwithstanding they had in a great Measure concur'd with his Endeavours to bring about a *Peace*, they were for obtaining it a more noble Way, than by setting the Honour and Interest of their Country to Publick Sale, as was clearly seen to be done in this Conjunction.

For the *STAFF* had by his Agent *Atty Brogue*, who had cross'd the Water several Times before the Articles were agreed on that were to be Preliminary to the *Peace*, so given up the Trade of his Country to *France*, that the Terms upon which the future good Understanding between the two Nations were founded, seem'd rather to be given to Us by our Enemies, as if they had Conquer'd Us, and not We them. But what will not a round Sum in hand do with a Person whose insatiate Desire of enriching himself and his Posterity, makes all Things Vendible? What an Ascendant has not a Pension of
Two

Two Thousand *Louis d'Ors*, per *Ann. &c.* upon a Man whose Penury of Soul continues to crave, notwithstanding the exigencies of his Circumstances are more than sufficiently provided for by a vast Estate?

Yet, notwithstanding these manifest Acts of Treachery which the *STAFF* had been clandestinely guilty of, they chose rather, in Consideration of their past Intimacy, to expostulate with him, and draw him off from the Precipice he was leading the Nation to, than to break with him; in hopes to recover him from the dangerous Steps he had taken, and to make him go over his Ground again with more Honesty and Caution. But after what a manner did that Minister receive their kind and wholesom Advice! He look'd upon them with an Eye of Contempt, told them, " They were unequal to
 " the Task they had taken upon
 " them; and not fit to teach him
 " who was able to be a *Counsellor* to
 " *Counsellors*. He upbraided them with
 " Ingratitude, and made them to know,
 " that as he had brought them into
 " the good Graces of the Queen, so he
 " would cause the Rays of Royal Fa-
 " your

“ your to shine no more upon them, if
 “ they offer’d to question the Sagacity
 “ of his Conduct, or interfere, by any
 “ Opposition, with the Measures he
 “ had taken.

Hereupon they saw it was to no purpose to hold out their Hands to retrieve him, and he was so deeply sunk in the Abyss of Treachery and Pride, as to be inextricably lost to all Sense of Conviction: Therefore, tho’ they could not prevent the *Peace* from being signed, they did all that lay in their Power, that such Conditions of it, (and those were very few) that were for the Advantage of their Country, should take Effect. The entire Demolition of *Dunkirk*, was not the least of those that employ’d their Regard; and they often remonstrated in Council against the Delays and Obstacles that were made, and raised on that Head. But the *STAFF* had, at that time, got Possession of the Queen’s Ear so much, that her Majesty would hear nothing in Prejudice of his Councils; which were turn’d another way, and directed to less publick Views, than Advantages that were National.

All this while, instead of raising the Fortifications of that Town, and of filling

filling up the Harbour, the *French*, as it were in Concert with the *British* Court, apply'd themselves to the Building and Digging others in a Place adjacent ; That when *Dunkirk* should, in Pursuance of the Treaty, be entirely demolish'd, only the Name should be lost, and the Strength of the Town revive in the Works that were erecting at *Mardyke*. Nor could the Two Patriots above-mention'd, with several of their Friends, hold themselves any longer engag'd not to break out into open Hostilities with the *STAFF*, on that and other Heads.

For they not only saw that they should partake in the Shame of his treacherous Counsels, should they any longer hold their Tongues from inveighing against the ruinous Consequences of them ; but were too well appriz'd of the Temper of the Man, that he would extricate himself out of any Difficulty which should encompass him, at the Expence of his most intimate and dearest Acquaintance. Nor was he backward in providing against their Endeavours ; by strengthening himself with new Partizans, and by making Overtures even to several of the Old

Ministry, in particular to the General, whose Disgrace and Banishment he had been the sole Occasion of. But whether he or they did not dare to trust a Man, who was incapable of being permanent in any one good Act any longer, than he engross'd the Advantage of it; or, whether he had incur'd their Hatred to such a Degree, as to make them loath having any thing to do with him: Not one closed in with his Proposals. Some needy *Whigs* indeed, whose Godliness was Gain, and those inconsiderable for their Number, were made Proselytes, and drawn over to his Purposes at the Expence of the Publick Treasure; but the Generality stood their Ground to a Miracle.

What the *STAFF* had most at Heart, was to prevent the *MITRE*, who by his means had accepted of a Bishoprick, from falling in with the Lord *JOHN BULL*, and the *PURSE*; He therefore was very assiduous with that *Prelate* for his Interest, and like the Devil in the Gospel, set before him all worldly Advantages, *to fall down and worship him.* But his Reply was of the same Nature, as that of, *get thee behind me Satan.* That truly Primitive and Apostolick Fa-

Father of the Church, would not barter his Conscience for an Augmentation of Revenues, in exchange of his Honour, and the Duty he ow'd his Queen and Country; but fairly told him, *He must act after another manner, if he would have him to come into his Measures*: Which it being impossible for that Minister to do, the *STAFF* gave him also over for lost, to all Intents and Purposes.

Affairs running thus a cross at home, tho' he still retain'd his Mistress's Favour! whom nothing but Demonstration could wean from the implicit Belief she had of his Fidelity! the *STAFF* bethought himself of some Negotiations abroad, to make his Antagonists turn their Eyes that way, and be less curious in their Enquiries after his evil Practices nearer at hand. In order to this, what did he, or somebody for him, but so stir up the Coals of Dissention in a neighbouring Kingdom, so exasperate one House of Parliament there against the other, and inflame the Populace against their Rulers, that the greatest and best Man, that ever held the Great Seal there, had like to have been made a Sacrifice for his intrepid Probity, and fix'd Observance of the Laws of God,

and his Country. And if a certain Great Man did not receive Orders there, as if from the Queen, for him to act otherwise than her Majesty intended, Fame, that is very often a Lyar, is guilty of a notorious Untruth.

What Effects this Piece of Management in *Ireland* had upon the whole Frame of the Constitution there, and how long the Laws of the Land lay dormant, while Justice, that is always painted with her Eyes shut, might be emphatically said to be asleep; the Distractions in *Dublin*, and elsewhere, that were but of Yesterday, will sufficiently evince. In the City, their ancient Government seem'd to be inverted, and the proper Electors were not at Liberty to chuse their own proper Officers. In the Country, People were frighted into Apprehensions of the Loss of those valuable Liberties that were purchas'd by their Ancestors, and preserv'd and secur'd to them by the late happy Revolution. In the Senate, Bickerings arose, instead of Loyal Conventions who should be the greatest Promoters of the Protestant Interest, or the heartiest Assertors of true Christian Liberty: In a Word, Sighs and Apprehensions

henfions were the Produce of every Part of the Country not inhabited by Bou-
tefeus and Incendiaries, and Men of all
Stations and Callings, that had at
Heart the Confervation of the publick
Peace, or were follicitous for the publick
Wellfare, seem'd, as if loft to all Hopes;
under the melancholy Prospect of even
worfe Attempts to be made on their
Rights and Immunities. Nor did the
Subjects fuffer exclusive of the State:
The Crown too was under a Necessity
of coming in for its Share in the com-
mon Lofs; for the Lower House of
Parliament were fo irritated, by the
Proceedings of fome of the Upper, who,
no doubt, had Instructions from the
STAFF, to go on with their Altera-
tions; that the neceffary Funds, for
their mutual Security, were not rais'd,
and the Parliament was oblig'd to be
Prorogued, before thofe, who, had an
Army at hand for their Defence in Cafe
of an Infurrection, or Invaſion, had
Money to pay them their Subſiſtance.

The *STAFF* had likewise other
Cards to play at a greater Diſtance,
where he ſtood in need of all his artful
Diſguiſes, to keep himſelf from a Diſ-
covery. The *Schiſm Bill* was in Agi-
tation

tation at *Westminster*, purposely brought in by the Intervention of the *Mitre* and *Purse*, who foresaw that only to be expedient to make that State Proteus shew himself in his true Colours, and stand a confirm'd Prodigy of Wick- edness, and Dissimulation; he was now brought to this Dilemma, either to joyn in the Measures that were taken to promote the Passage of this salutary, this wholesome Bill into an Act, or to declare against it. His Vindicator, in his History of the *White-Staff*, may say, he did neither, and remain'd in a perfect State of Neutrality; but there are those among the Dissenters, can testify; That he not only encourag'd his Kinsmen and Dependents in both Houses to Vote against it, tho' his own Son had Orders to be Tooth and Nail for it, to keep his underhand Dealings from being discern'd; nay, there are some that can make it apparent as the Noon Day, that he had the View of, and amended the Reasons that were drawn up, and Printed, against its obtaining the Sanction of Authority: All which Reasons, with others that were numberless, sufficiently refuted and answer'd themselves, according to the *Mitre's* De-

Delicacy and Energy of Expression, who convinc'd the House, which they were last lodg'd in, of the Weakness of them. Take his own Words, *If Schism, said he, be about indifferent Things, why should Children be involved in these Differences before they know what they are? If about Matters of the last Consequence, the Dissenters have gone off from the first and chief Pretence, upon which a Tolleration was granted them? If a Schism was unavoidable, because of the Ignorance and Distractions of Forty One, why should the Iniquity of those Times be establish'd by a Law, or that Law be made perpetual and unalterable? If Schism was tollerated, on Account of its Mortality, why should it be allow'd the Priviledges of Monarchy, and go by Inheritance, and Succession?*

But the Staff was like the deaf Adulter, that hears not the Voice of the Charmer, charm he never so wisely; and made use of what was intended to be, (and must necessarily have that Consequence,) for the Interest of the Protestant Succession, as he gave out by his Emissaries at Home, and his K——n, at a certain Court, that the Pretender was at the Bottom of the Scheme,

Scheme. By these means making it his Business to create Jealousies and Misunderstandings between the Throne, and those that were to Succeed to it, at the same Time as he pretended to Disswade that very Prince who is now next to it, to come over, and learn how to Defend the Prerogatives of it, and to Adorn it.

When, as if the Death of *Schism* was to be the Destruction of its chiefest Abettor and Promoter, the *Staff* had the Mortification to see all his Ingratitude and base Designs laid open before Injured Majesty, (who had the satisfaction, to spurn him from her Presence before she was snatch'd hence from the Eyes and Hearts of her Loving Subjects, where her precious Memory will ever be entomb'd) and to behold the *M I T R E* and *P U R S E*, even after their dear Mistress's Decease, as much in Possession of good Mens Esteem, as the *STAFF* is of their Hatred and Contempt : Further Reasons for which, are ample enough to swell another Volume, had the Writer of this, either Leisure or Passions enough to pursue him, yet further, which perhaps he may do, when his Time will permit him.

F I N I S.





